

REMARKS

The claims have now been limited to antibodies which are immunoreactive with the peptide of SEQ ID NO: 49. The claims which are directed to additional peptides have been canceled. Claims 41 and 44 are now limited to antibodies which immunoreact with claim 49 as well. Prosecution on the merits is now requested.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket No. 219002025213.

Respectfully submitted,

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EXHIBIT A. - VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

32. (Amended) Antibodies useful for immunoassays to detect a peptide which peptide comprises human [or canine] brain natriuretic peptide[.] of the formula:

Ser-Pro-Lys-Met-Val-Gln-Gly-Ser-Gly-Cys-Phe-Gly-Arg-Lys-Met-Asp-Arg-Ile-Ser-Ser-Ser-Ser-Gly-Leu-Gly-Cys-Lys-Val-Leu-Arg-Arg-His,

or a C-terminal amide thereof. (SEQ ID NO: 49).